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Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes in Africa



MEDIA MONITORING

2 September 2014

Joint Rwanda-DRC border commission finds most of DRC border inside Rwanda

Source: News of Rwanda

By Gahiji

2 September 2014 - A joint team of experts from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have confirmed the discovery of the seventeen missing border demarcations between the two countries.

These are part of the 22 demarcations that were put up by Belgian and German colonial rulers in 1911 as separating marks for the two borders from banks of Lake Kivu to Hehu hills.

Most of the demarcations however were found on the Congolese border side, an aspect that has raised fears among Congolese nationals over possibility of losing their land to Rwanda or being counted on the Rwandan side.

However Isdras Rwayitare, one of the experts from the Rwandan side said on August 28, 2014 that final findings and proclamation of actual borderlines will be made official on the September 15, 2014, thereafter, the real border lines will be drawn.

The move will also enable Rwanda to recover Kanyesheja 2- a piece of land that is resided on by Rwandans since independence in 1962, though Google map shows that the land is located in the DRC.

The Congolese borders have been unstable ever since the declaration of DRC as an independent state in 1960, with Belgians living between the borders of Goma in Congo getting expelled into Rwanda through Gisenyi border.

In the wake of the instability, the UN declared 100 meters of no-man's land (neutral zone) on each of the border sides to ensure a certain level of sovereignty.

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Five persons arrested in over Rwf580 million UNDP scam

Source: Rwanda News Agency

Kigali, 1 September 2014 - The Rwanda National Police has arrested five people in connection with creating ghost consultancy projects and stealing over Rwf580 million from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Rwanda.

Police Spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner of Police Damas Gatare identified the suspects as Evelyne Ben Dadale, the Programme Associate in UNDP; Viviane Masabo, an employment of REMA; and entrepreneurs Liliane Kente, Jeremie Rucamukibatsi and Michael Kabutura.

"The five were arrested on August 29 and are accused of creating ghost consultancy projects and forging the signature of the Director General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), which they used to secure a total of Rwf580, 270, 483 from UNDP between 2011 and August 2014," ACP Gatare said. UNDP finances various environmental projects through REMA.

"Rucamukibatsi was arrested by Burundi Police on the international arrest warrant issued by RNP while others were apprehended in Kigali on a tip-off from members of the public after they read various notices put on the RNP website and its social networks," he added.

The consultancy was allegedly conducted by Biogas Rec Limited owned by Rucamukibatsi, Envirotech Consult limited jointly owned by Kente and Kabutura and Rwanda Bamboo society of one Johnson Nkusi, who was already in detention over other criminal acts.

"Today, it's hard to commit a crime and run away. We have built good working relations with regional and international Police forces and even with the local population through community policing which has supported RNP and justice sector in general to ensure that criminals don't escape justice," he noted.

The created ghost consultancy include the 'Assessment Impact from Community Conservation around Volcanoes National Park' allegedly done in March 2012 and cost over Rwf38.4 million; public environment experience review worth Rwf37.2 million supposedly carried out in December 2013 and 'study on environmental and livelihood impact of fertilizers in Rwanda' allegedly carried out in April this year and took over Rwf29.3 million.

"These are consultancy projects that either never existed or had been cancelled by the management of REMA," he added.

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Uncertainty as Deputy President William Ruto's ICC case resumes

Source: Standard Digital

By Nzau Musau

Kenya, 1 September 2014 - Uncertainty looms over the ICC case against Deputy President William Ruto and journalist Joshua Sang which resumes in The Hague Tuesday. Of the eight reluctant witnesses from Kenya who are supposed to take the stand between tomorrow and October 4, only one has reportedly confirmed participation.

The Kenya Government was supposed to serve them summons to appear in accordance with the judge's decision of April 17. The Government was also to "facilitate, by way of compulsory measure as necessary," their appearance.

But the Government, Ruto and Sang were opposed to the idea of compelling the witnesses. Their attempt to suspend the decision in the appeals chamber was however rejected. The appeal is still pending.

A top Government official who refused to be quoted owing to the sensitivity of the matter confirmed that all eight witnesses have been summoned. He could not however confirm whether they would attend the hearings.

"All were served. As to whether they will appear, we cannot know. It's like the police giving you a ticket to appear in court over a traffic offence. How can they know whether you will appear or not before the D-day?" he said.

The eight are witnesses 15, 16, 336, 397, 516, 524, 495 and 423. They had recorded statements with the prosecution and were under its witness programme when they pulled out one by one. They want nothing to do with the case.

"So far, and to the best of my knowledge, only one witness has confirmed participation. I foresee a very short session unless the prosecution has some back up plans," a lawyer involved in the cases confirmed to The Standard on Sunday.

ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda runs the danger of having the witnesses testify in a manner that helps the defence. But judges have said this possibility is not without value in the search for truth.

"Even then, there is no known wisdom that hostile witnesses are incapable of testifying the truth under oath," they said.

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So far, 21 witnesses have testified in the case. Ruto travels to The Hague today to participate in the first five days.

Ugandan president dismisses health ministry procurement chief over alleged bribe demand

Source: Management Daily (Kampala)

By Gurjit Degun

1 September 2014 - The head of procurement at the Ugandan government's Ministry of Health has been dismissed for allegedly asking for a bribe from an Italian investor.

According to a statement from The State House of Uganda, Frank Mugisha asked for a bribe of 20 per cent of the total project he was handling to finalise a procurement process.

President Yoweri Museveni received a complaint from Enrica Pinetti, the chairman of Finasi Company, a project developer and consultancy, which was bidding for the government contract.

The statement added: "In a meeting between President Museveni, ministry officials and the investors at State House Entebbe, the president directed that Mugisha be removed with immediate effect and be replaced with a devoted civil servant who cannot steal.

"How can you keep a thief in the ministry? And how are you going to counsel a thief? A thief is a thief. He should be removed," he said.

"The President pointed out that Finasi Company came to Uganda at his request to build a first class hospital to deal with complicated problems such as kidney and heart operations.

"I requested them to come to Uganda to deal with kidney and heart problems so that people stop travelling to India for treatment," he said.

Tanzania: 50 Percent Rwandan Goods Transit in Tanzania

Source: East African Business Week (Kampala) via AllAfrica.com

Kigali, 31 August 2014 - Last year half of Rwanda's imports passed through the Central Corridor route using Dar es Salaam port.

Alexis Nzahabwanimana, the State Minister in charge of Transport was recently addressing participants of the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facility Agency (CCTTFA).

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"In 2013, about 50% of Rwanda's imports went through the Central Corridor which underlines the importance of this corridor to Rwanda," Nzahabwanimana said.

He said the Central Corridor is very crucial for Rwanda's international trade since it is shorter than the Northern option.

At 1500 kilometres through the Rusumo border post, the Central Corridor is almost 200 kilometres shorter.

He said, "Rwanda is fully committed to CCTTFA, because geographically the country is connected to the Indian Ocean by two major gateways which are the Northern Corridor that links it to Port Mombasa through Uganda and Kenya and the Central Corridor that links it to Port Dar es Salaam through Rusumo border post."

The Kigali meeting brought together transport ministers and related senior officials from the five countries of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.

CCTTFA was formed in September 2006 to cater for the logistical problems of landlocked countries. This was part of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 56/180 on particular needs of Landlocked developing countries from which other declarations and action programmes have evolved.

Nzahabwimana thanked the Tanzania government building roads that connect Rwanda to Dar-es-salaam and the improvements made at the port.

"This supports the flow of goods from Port Dar-es-salaam to Rwanda reducing on the costs of transportation, the time goods spend to get to Rwanda, enhancement of competitiveness of the economies and eradication of poverty among our people," Nzahabwanimana said.

The Tanzania transport minister, Charles Tizeba said their government is also committed to ensuring that the Central Corridor was not only safe and reliable, but also affordable, efficient and cost effective for the Corridor member states.

"The Tanzania government 'Big Result Now' initiative aims at unlocking the Central Corridor through increasing cargo throughput at the Dar es Salaam Port, increasing cargo movement on rails and reducing travel time made by trucks from the port of Dar es salaam to the borders of Burundi, Rwanda and DRC," he said.

"In order to reduce on non-tariff barriers the government is constructing three One Stop Inspection Stations at Vigwaza, Manyoni and Nyakanazi which is aimed at easing movement of trucks to the different countries," he said.

Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania are developing a multinational project on railway from Isaka-Kigali-Keza-Musongati which will link port of Dar-es-salaam to Kigali and Bujumbura.

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Rwanda: Over Five Percent Growth for Rwanda

Source: East African Business Week (Kampala) via AllAfrica.com

Kigali, 31 August 2014 - The Rwanda economic growth rate for 2014 is forecasted at 5.7% with a rise to 6.6% in 2015.

This is the gist of the latest World Bank Rwanda Economic Update report that was launched last week at Hotel Mille Colline.

"Rwanda's growth rate for the past years has been impressive and what is needed now is a significant structural transformation of the economy from one that is characterized by a large public sector to private investment," Carolyn Turk World Bank Country Manager for Rwanda said.

She said this would minimize current vulnerabilities in the economy and enable the country to sustain its high growth rates into the next decade.

Rwanda's economic growth faced a setback in 2013 falling to 4.7% which is the lowest growth since 2003 according to the report and this was because of aids shortfall in 2012 which resulted to delays in budget expenditure.

Because of a strongly developed services sector growth of Rwanda picked up rising to 7.4% in the first quarter of 2014.

"We are hopeful that growth in 2014 will be higher than that in 2013 and this is because of the turnovers in services and industries that have picked up," Toru Nishiuchi, World bank economist and co-author of the report said.

He said the lagged effect of the aid shortfall to the economy was extended to the second half of 2013 which affected both private and public sector activities but there was signs of recovery in 2014.

World Bank this time looks at mining sector as one sector that can help Rwanda achieve its development plans if fully developed.

"Investment in mining in the past few years has contributed to an increase in mineral exports which accounted for 40% of total goods exports in 2013," Nishiuchi said.

Mining in Rwanda is currently on small-scale but the sector still contributes to national development.

This is why the government aims at changing this sector to a semi-industrial sector.

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This report indicates that production capacity of landlocked country's mining sector has progressively increased with export earnings reaching \$225million in 2013.

Rachel Perks, WB Mining specialist and co-author of the report said the sector has contributed to job creation and foreign direct investment.

"Mining will help the country create more off- farm jobs which is one important pillar of the government EDPRS2," she said.

This sector has created over 33.000 jobs and again it pays more as compared to other jobs in rural areas.

To increase on volumes of minerals from the country, different strategies have been developed by the government.

"The duration of getting licenses has been reduced, legal framework on mining has been changed, management of the mining licenses among others have been addressed," Michael Biryabarema said.

"Government of Rwanda over the past 3 years has been putting in about Euro2million in attracting hot tracks and mineral prospection to do mineral evaluation so as to attract more investors to the sector helping it contribute more to national development," he said.

"Government again aims at looking at efficiency of mineral production so quality minerals can be produced which will help it reach its targets of EDPRS2," Biryaberama said.

Rwanda government aims at achieving \$400million by 2017 from \$160million achieved in 2012 and this will be so if challenges faced in the mining sector are addressed.

RDC: émotion après la mort du général Bahuma, héros discret des FARDC

Par RFI

1^{er} septembre 2014 - L'émotion est vive en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) après la disparition, dimanche 31 août, de celui que l'on considère comme l'un des héros de la guerre contre les groupes armés dans l'est du pays. Le général Lucien Bahuma, le commandant de la 8e région militaire qui couvre le Nord-Kivu, s'est éteint en Afrique du Sud des suites d'un violent malaise cardiaque.

Lucien Bahuma, ce général des Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) était avant tout un homme de terrain. Pour le voir, il fallait donc, généralement, s'approcher de la ligne de front. Petit, le regard rieur, cet homme discret, qui fuyait les micros,

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n'était jamais très loin de ses troupes : souvent penché sur une carte, ou en train de donner des ordres à ses hommes.

Sa grande victoire restera l'offensive éclair qu'il a menée face à la rébellion du Mouvement du 23-mars (M23). Fin tacticien, formé en RDC mais aussi en France, il est nommé en juin 2012 à la tête de la 8e région militaire pour reprendre les choses en main. L'armée congolaise y enchaîne les défaites face au M23, dont la plus humiliante est la prise de la ville de Goma en novembre 2012.

Un an plus tard, après avoir simplifié la chaîne de commandement, placé des hommes de confiance et bénéficié du soutien de Kinshasa pour que ses troupes soient payées, il efface en deux semaines près d'un an d'humiliations répétées face aux rebelles, et devient ainsi l'auteur de l'une des premières victoires militaires des FARDC depuis la décolonisation.

Opération inachevée contre les ADF

Quinze minutes après la prise de Bunagana – ville symbole à la frontière avec l'Ouganda – occupée par le M23 depuis des mois, il est là pour constater la victoire en personne. De même à Chanzu, le dernier bastion des rebelles du M23 et lieu de résidence de leur chef Sultani Makenga, tout en haut d'une colline : il avait tenu à voir, visiter et profiter de cette victoire avec ses hommes, sans jamais accepter de s'exprimer au micro.

Depuis janvier, il menait l'offensive contre les rebelles ougandais des Allied democratic forces (ADF). Une opération compliquée, très coûteuse en vies humaines, et qu'il n'aura pas pu achever. Le général Lucien Bahuma s'est éteint en Afrique du Sud, où il avait été évacué après une brusque dégradation de son état de santé alors qu'il était en mission en Ouganda.

Avec sa mort, l'armée congolaise perd sans conteste l'un de ses meilleurs éléments ; populaire auprès de ses troupes mais aussi des Congolais, il risque de manquer à une armée lancée en pleine bataille face aux groupes rebelles.

Emotion au Nord-Kivu

Dans le Nord-Kivu, les réactions ne se sont pas fait attendre. Dimanche, les femmes de militaires ont organisé une marche de colère dans la ville de Goma. « *A Goma, des femmes, des populations civiles, des motards se sont regroupés. C'était leur manière de montrer leur souffrance* », détaille Julien Paluku, gouverneur de la province du Nord-Kivu.

Du côté de la société civile, nombreux sont ceux qui réclament une enquête. La mort du général intervient en effet après le décès, dans des circonstances toujours non élucidées, de l'un de ses proches collaborateurs, le colonel Mamadou Ndala. Huit mois après l'assassinat de cet autre héros de cette victoire contre le M23, beaucoup ont du mal à croire au décès accidentel du général Bahuma.

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Les autorités, à l'image du gouverneur Julien Paluku, ont lancé des appels au calme. « *Je comprends l'émotion que ressent cette population, elle est tout à fait normale. Mais il nous appartient de la calmer, pour que l'ennemi n'en profite pas pour reprendre ses messages de division et briser cet élan de paix que nous avons retrouvé depuis un moment.* »

Africa: Kenya to Host AU Summit on Terrorism

Source: Capital FM via AllAfrica.com

By Joseph Muraya

Nairobi, 1 September 2014 - Kenya will host the Africa Union Peace and Security Council Summit on Terrorism, to be attended by a number of Heads of State and Government from the continent on Tuesday.

Already, six presidents have confirmed attendance at the one-day summit among them the leaders of Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Somalia.

The presidents of Tanzania and Uganda will also be present.

The meeting is expected to agree on concrete steps meant to enhance the ongoing efforts to effectively address the threat of terrorism, including the early ratification and domestication of the relevant AU and international instruments.

Prime Ministers of Namibia and Algeria will lead their countries' delegations as will Burundi's First Vice President. Delegations to be led by ministers include Gambia, Ethiopia, Libya and South Africa.

High level ambassadors from Equatorial Guinea and Mozambique will represent their countries.

The summit will also seek ways of mobilising for additional support to Africa's efforts and the enhancement of international coordination and collaboration in the war against terror.

It is also expected that during the meeting, regional leaders "will agree on practical steps to enhance the implementation of the AU counter-terrorism framework at national, regional and continental levels."

The summit comes as Kenya continues to face security challenges emanating from various terrorist attacks and the continued threat from Somalia's Al-Shabaab terror group which has vowed to continue with the trend until the Kenya Defence Forces move out of Somalia.

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Nairobi and Mombasa have been the worst hit by the attacks which have led to deaths and destruction of property.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has since challenged regional police chiefs to consolidate their efforts in combating terrorism and other crimes.

On August 7, President Barack Obama said the US would continue to help build the capacity of Kenya's security services and better equip them to deal with the problem of Al Shabaab and other security threats.

His support was also extended to other African states during the US-Africa leader's summit.

They included Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana and Tunisia to begin with.

"We're launching a new security governance initiative to help our African countries continue to build strong, professional security forces to provide for their own security," Obama reported to the press after meetings with the African heads of states who attended the US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington DC.

Obama announced that the US was entering into a rapid response partnership, with six African countries who had demonstrated a track record as peace keepers.

On the sidelines of the US summit, President Kenyatta had complained that Kenya has been neglected in the war against terror.

Nigeria: Jonathan to attend AU terrorism meeting in Kenya

Source: APA

31 August 2014 - Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan is set to participate in a meeting of the African Union's Peace and Security Council scheduled to hold in Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday. A statement from Jonathan's office on Sunday said the Nairobi meeting, which is a follow-up to talks by him and other African leaders in Pretoria, South Africa in May on joint action against terrorism, would receive and consider the report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa.

It added that deliberations at the Nairobi Summit and the adoption of the African Chairperson's Report by President Jonathan, President Uhuru Kenyatta and other participating heads of state are expected lead to more collaborative actions by Nigeria and other African countries to rid the continent of acts of terrorism and violent extremism.

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According to the statement, President Jonathan will return to Abuja at the conclusion of the meeting on Tuesday.

République centrafricaine : les ravages de la haine

Source : France24

1^{er} septembre 2014 - Alors que l'ONU s'apprête à prendre la relève de la France en envoyant mi-septembre des forces de maintien de la paix en République centrafricaine, Amnesty International revient sur 18 mois de violences infernales et interminables.

En intervenant en République centrafricaine en décembre 2013 pour mettre fin aux violences intercommunautaires, la France a évité le "pire", a déclaré le président François Hollande, lors de sa traditionnelle conférence aux ambassadeurs fin août.

Le pire, ce sont des combats qui ont déjà fait des milliers de morts et un million et demi de déplacés et que le déploiement de quelque 2 000 soldats français, dans le cadre de l'opération Sangaris, peine à endiguer.

Élue en janvier 2013, la présidente Catherine Samba-Panza n'est pas non plus parvenue à faire cesser les violences entre les milices anti-balaka majoritairement chrétiennes et les factions de la Séléka, réfugiées dans le Nord musulman, qui menacent le pays de partition.

Un nouveau gouvernement de transition, dévoilé le 22 août, doit désormais veiller à maintenir le cessez-le-feu, arraché le 23 juillet à Brazzaville. Le Premier ministre Mahamat Kamoun disposera pour cela, dès le 15 septembre, de l'appui de 7 600 casques bleus de l'ONU, en grande partie des soldats africains déjà sur place, qui prendront la relève des français.

Central African Republic: Renewed violence in capital and throughout the country

Source: ICRC

1 September 2014 - Although security had apparently been improving in Bangui, fighting between international forces and armed men erupted in the Kilometre 5 district of the capital on 19 and 20 August. Among the many casualties was a Central African Red Cross driver and first-aid worker who was shot and killed while evacuating casualties.

"Throughout the country, civilians continue to bear a heavy burden because of the conflict and reprisal attacks aimed directly at them," said Jean-François Sangsue, head of the ICRC delegation in the Central African Republic. "Once again, we are calling on all parties to the conflict

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and on the international forces in the country to take all feasible measures to spare the civilian population and to facilitate the work of Red Cross personnel striving to help the people of the Central African Republic."

[*Learn more>>*](#)

Afrique centrale/Afrique des Grands lacs: deux régions en quête de stabilité

Source : Agence d'Information d'Afrique centrale

Par Gankama N'Siah

1^{er} septembre 2014 - Depuis un peu plus d'une année, l'attention de la communauté internationale se focalise sur la République centrafricaine en raison de l'instabilité qui y règne. La crainte des partenaires extérieurs et des voisins de ce pays, est que les violences armées instrumentées par les luttes pour le pouvoir ne déteignent sur l'ensemble des Etats d'Afrique centrale, alors même que l'Afrique des Grands lacs, toute proche, n'est pas non plus épargnée par des conflits du même type. A quatre mois de la fin de cette année 2014 marquée par la montée des antagonismes de tous genres, l'Afrique centrale et celle des Grands Lacs se trouvent réellement à la croisée des chemins.

A la vérité, les deux régions en font presque une. Non seulement elles sont habitées par les mêmes peuples, mais les pays qui les composent sont à cheval entre l'une et l'autre région. C'est le cas notamment de l'Angola, considéré comme un pays d'Afrique australe, qui appartient tout naturellement aussi à l'Afrique centrale. Les cas aussi du Burundi et du Rwanda, faisant naguère partie de l'Afrique orientale allemande, qui ne sont pas moins membres de la région d'Afrique centrale. Le Burundi siège au sein de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale, le Rwanda qui s'y était retiré est décidé à revenir. Ou encore la République démocratique du Congo, membre de l'Afrique des Grands Lacs, avec le Burundi, le Rwanda et l'Ouganda, mais aussi de l'Afrique centrale. Ce n'est peut-être pas anodin si les douze pays de ces deux espaces politico-géographiques (Angola, Cameroun, Gabon, Guinée Equatoriale, Centrafrique, Congo Brazzaville, Congo Kinshasa, Soa Tomé-et-Principe, Tchad, Burundi, Rwanda, Ouganda) ont, à quelque chose près, les mêmes préoccupations d'ordres sécuritaire, politique et socio-économique. Descriptage.

[*En savoir plus>>*](#)

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Political detainees to be released ahead of Sudan dialogue

Source: Sudan Tribune

Khartoum, 31 August, 2014 - The mechanism for Sudan's national dialogue known as the (7+7) committee has formed six subcommittees to spearhead the process, also announcing the possible release of political detainees.

After a call in January for the national dialogue on peace and constitutional reforms, president Omer al-Bashir issued a number of decrees on 9 April allowing greater freedom for political parties and vowing to release all political detainees not implicated in criminal acts.

However, in May the security apparatus arrested a fervent defender of the dialogue process and leader of the opposition National Umma Party (NUP) Sadiq al-Mahdi for criticising the role of government militias in the country's war zones.

Also the head of the opposition Popular Congress Party (PCP), Ibrahim al-Sheikh, has been arrested since June for the same reason. In August, NUP deputy leader Mariam al-Mahdi was also arrested for participating in talks with rebel groups.

Speaking after a meeting of the dialogue mechanism, information minister Ahmed Bilal, who co-chairs the 7+7 information subcommittee, told reporters that a number of measures will be announced soon in order to create a conducive environment in the country before the commencement of the internal process.

Bilal added that the mechanism formed a subcommittee headed by Hassan Osman Rizk, a member of the opposition Reform Now Movement (RNM), and Aboud Jaber of the ruling party to prepare a list of the detained politicians and journalists.

He added the matter will be discussed next Sunday and then submitted to president Bashir.

However, the minister denied the existence of political prisoners in the country saying "those who are being detained are held on criminal charges".

Regarding Marriam al-Mahdi, he stressed she has been arrested on criminal charges. But "we are now working on measures to create a suitable climate," he added.

The NUP leading member is accused of "subversive activities" after meetings with rebel groups over the Paris Declaration on peace and democratic transition in Sudan.

Fadel al-Sayid Choeib, 7+7 member and leader of the Truth Party, spoke to reporters about the composition of the other subcommittees agreed in Sunday's meeting.

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According to Choeib, the external liaison subcommittee is co-chaired by the RNM president Ghazi Salah alDin Attabani and cabinet minister DUP member Ahmed Saad Omer who is also Darfurian.

The internal liaison subcommittee is headed by presidential assistant and leader of Beja party Musa Mohamed Ahmed and Mustafa Ahmed Mahmoud of the Socialist Nasirsit Party.

Comprehensive dialogue subcommittee will be co-headed by Kamal Omer of the Popular Congress Party and Ahmed Babikir Nahar of the Umma Federal Party.

Presidential assistant Ibrahim Ghandour and Ahmed Abu al-Gassim Hashim, secretary-general of the Alliance of People's Working Forces, will chair the subcommittee of social dialogue.

Is UNAMID Aggrieved?

Source: Sudan Vision

By Hamza Sirelkhatim

2 September 2014 - The performance of the United Nations – African Union Mission (UNAMID) sometimes came under fire from local press. Even UNAMID former spokesperson recently criticized the Mission's performance. However, press critics of the Mission often made their judgments on pre-conceived opinions, overlooking the nature of UNAMID composition, the conditions it is working under and limitation of its mandate. UNAMID force has been deployed in Darfur to replace the African Union Mission force (AMIS). The military component of UNAMID is purely African turned blue –helmeted, with the senior Mission leadership predominantly African. When UNAMID took over from AMIS, the conflict there was escalating. Under the circumstances, UNAMID found itself caught in a situation other than peace-keeping. It has to protect innocent civilians, while distancing itself from direct confrontations. Nonetheless, it was sometimes accused of bias by both parties to the conflict. Not only that, the Mission personnel targeted while on duty.

The talked-about below-expectations performance of UNAMID was not unjustifiable. Deployed in an area the size of France, UNAMID cannot police violations committed here and there. Added to that, the conflict in Darfur has no longer been between rebels and government forces. Outlawed groups capitalized on the tension-laden situation and practiced robbery, abductions and other criminal activities. Tribal conflicts in Darfur added fuel to an already inflammable situation faced by UNAMID, distorting its peace-keeping efforts.

In view of the above picture, it seems that UNAMID critics looked at the empty half of the copy. However, looking at the filled half could lead them to reconsider their judgments. UNAMID has considerably contributed to development in the region at many levels. It has continued to provide basic services such as potable water, medical services and maintenance of schools, in addition

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to other community services. Economically, it has contributed to improving living conditions, recruiting thousands of national staff and revived local markets.

It will be fair to judge UNAMID performance from the concept of its mandate as a peace-keeping mission. UNAMID cannot enforce peace unless the parties to the conflict agree on bringing a comprehensive peace.

S. Sudan Tightens Border with DRC Over Ebola

Source: Views Times

1 September 2014 - South Sudanese authorities have decided to step up security on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) after the latter country reported several Ebola fatalities.

Speaking at a press briefing, South Sudanese Health Ministry Undersecretary Makur Kariom said the ministry had acknowledged the Equatoria region as "the most high-risk area" after several Ebola deaths were confirmed in neighboring DRC.

"Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states are at high-risk regarding the cases registered in the DRC," Kariom told reporters.

"So the government has sent a team to work with the relevant authorities to restrict unnecessary movement along the border," he said.

"We will be checking whoever comes in and also give public awareness to the people concerning Ebola," he added.

Kariom said precautionary measures would also be taken in affected areas.